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OP No. 431 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 07-04-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE **DR.JUSTICE A.D.MARIA CLETE**

OP No. 431 of 2022

M.Govendhan

..Petitioner

Vs

R.Anusuya

..Respondents

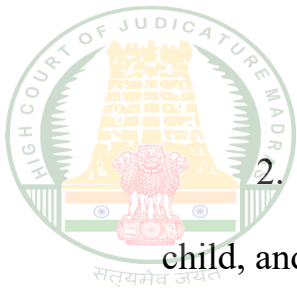
Prayer: This Original Petition has been filed under Sections 3,7,8 and 9, 10 & 25 of the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890 R/W Order-XXI Rule 2 and 3 of O.S.Rules, praying to appoint the Petitioner as the Guardian of the person of the Minor Child Dhananjayan Govendhan born on 26.07.2019 and grant permanent custody of the child to the Petitioner herein.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.A.Ashok Kumar

For Respondent(s): Ms.Geetha Ramaseshan
for Mr.S.Ramesh Umaphathy

ORDER

The present Original Petition has been filed praying to appoint the Petitioner as the Guardian of the person of the Minor Child Dhananjayan Govendhan born on 26.07.2019 and grant permanent custody of the child to the Petitioner herein.



2. After a brief hearing and having regard to the welfare of the minor child, and pending consideration of the larger issues in the Original Petition, this

Court considers it appropriate to refer the matter for a combined mediator-counsellor session to explore an amicable parenting arrangement and obtain child-focused assistance on interim parenting issues.

3. Accordingly, the matter is referred to the Mediation Centre.

4. The referral shall be subject to the following conditions:

a. The parties along with the child shall appear, in the first instance, before the mediator namely **Ms.Bala Natarajan** and counsellor namely **Mr.Suchit Anant Palande** on 17.04.2026 at the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court, Madras, and thereafter on such further date(s) and time(s) as may be fixed by them.

b. The mediator and counsellor may hold joint sessions with the parties, but their functions of course shall remain distinct. The mediator shall facilitate consensual settlement while the counsellor shall assist in evolving a child-focused parenting arrangement in the welfare interest of the minor child.

c. Needless to observe that all mediation communications shall remain confidential. No statement, offer, concession, admission, or discussion made in mediation shall be disclosed to this Court.

d. The counsellor may submit a limited parenting proposal/note to this Court to assist in working out an interim parenting arrangement. Such note shall be confined to child welfare, practical parenting arrangements, and the needs of



the minor child, and shall not disclose any mediation communication, settlement offer, concession, admission, or reasons for failure of settlement.

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e. The initial fee/remuneration payable to the counsellor shall be borne by the party/parties, subject to such order as this Court may pass by the next hearing.

f. On conclusion of the process, the Mediation Centre/designated unit may place before this Court:

(i) a signed parenting plan, if consensus is reached;

(ii) the limited counsellor's parenting proposal/note as indicated above, if no consensus arrived at by the parties.

5. Until further orders and without prejudice to the rights and contentions of either party, the existing interim arrangement if any, earlier ordered by this Court shall operate.

6. Prior to appear before the Mediation Centre, both parties are directed to appear before this Court on 17.04.2026 at 1.30 p.m. so that this Court opens up conversation between the parties and facilitates the disposition between the parties to negotiate and settle the issue.

7. List this matter on **17.04.2026 at 1.30 p.m. for appearance of both parties.**

SRM

07-04-2026



WEB COPY

OP No. 431 of 2



DR.A.D.MARIA CLETE, J.

SRM

To

1. The Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre,
High Court of Madras,
Chennai.

2. Mr. Suchit Anant Palande
(Cell No. 9840327282)

3. Ms. Bala Natarajan
(Cell No. 9840034033)

OP No. 431 of 2022

07-04-2026